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OLC 68-0379

14 June 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with George Murphy, Joint Committee on Atomic Energy Staff, on Chinese Communist Missile and Atomic Energy Program

25X1 1. On this date Messrs. David Brandwein, FMSAC, [redacted] [redacted] OSI, Jack Maury and [redacted] OLC, met with Mr. George Murphy, on the staff of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, in the Committee hearing room. The meeting was the result of a request from Mr. Murphy on the behalf of Senator John Pastore. Mr. Murphy requested information having to do with the Chinese Communist nuclear weapon capabilities. This was prompted, in large part, by Mr. Murphy's reading an editorial in this morning's Washington Post entitled, "Nonproliferation and Beyond." Among other things, the editorial indicated that "new intelligence estimates of Chinese and Russian progress reportedly grant the United States more time to decide on Sentinel deployment." Murphy anticipates that Senator Pastore will want to oppose moves now being made by Senator Cooper and others in the Senate to strike from the Defense appropriation funds required to finance the Sentinel ABM system.

25X1 2. Mr. Brandwein and [redacted] briefed Mr. Murphy on the status of the Chinese Communist's missile and nuclear energy programs.

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briefing indicated that we still expect the Chinese Communist atomic energy program to proceed about on schedule and certainly do not expect it to slip any further than the one year period involved in the missile program.

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25X1 3. At Mr. Murphy's request [ ] and Mr. Brandwein also covered the present status of the Soviet missile and atomic energy programs with particular emphasis on the USSR's ICBM program, FOBS, the Tallin System and their nuclear submarine program. They also covered Soviet preparations for a new underground nuclear test and the development of a new solid propellant missile of medium or intermediate range. In anticipation of a question from Mr. Murphy, 25X1 [ ] indicated that the intelligence community has put to rest 25X1 a rumor (ostensibly originating in [ ]) to the effect that the Soviets might be preparing for atmospheric testing. He explained that the intelligence community has found no convincing evidence of any Soviet intention to resume atmospheric testing. However, we still take the position that the Soviets could resume testing in the atmosphere within only a few weeks notice.

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25X1 5. At the conclusion of the meeting Mr. Maury queried Mr. Murphy regarding the statements made by Mr. Conway and himself to [ ] previously that we "could expect a lot of questions when the Agency comes before the Joint Committee for its semi-annual briefing

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prior to the final adjournment of the Congress this year." Mr. Murphy sidestepped this somewhat by saying that we should review the transcript of our last briefing of the Committee and bring the Committee up to date on all matters which had been covered that last session. He also

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Assistant Legislative Counsel

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